## REMARKS

Claims 1-17, 19, 21 and 23 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 6 are currently amended. Claims 10, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 25 are canceled. Claims 14-16 are withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments and remarks below present no new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and remarks below is requested.

### I. The rejection of claims 1-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 pursuant to 35 USC 112

The Examiner has rejected the claims as indefinite for being defined in terms of properties alone. Claim 1, as amended, does not define the compositions in terms of properties alone. For example, claim 1, as amended requires, *inter alia*, a granule including a core and a coating wherein the core has an active compound and the coating includes a synthetic polymer wax composition. Reconsideration is urged.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 1 by stating that it is indefinite as to what exactly a) b) and c) are. Claim 1, as amended, includes a coating having a wide molecular weight distribution. Accordingly, a), b), and c) characterize a wide molecular weight distribution. See, e.g., the term "a wide molecular weight distribution" on page 3 of the instant specification for additional clarification. Applicants' submit that claim 1 is clear. Reconsideration is urged.

### II. The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

The Applicants' disclosure relates to a granule including a core and a coating wherein the core includes an active compound and the coating includes a synthetic polymer wax composition with a broad molecular weight distribution. Providing a coating having a wide molecular weight distribution is critical.

Claims 1-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Markussen *et al* (WO 89/08694) (hereinafter referred to simply as "Markussen").

Markussen refers to granulate detergent enzymes including a core of an enzyme containing material with a coating containing a mono- and diglyceride of a fatty acid, with a

content of monoglyceride in relation to the total amount of mono and diglyceride of at least 30% by weight and preferably with a melting point above 35 deg. C. However, Markussen does not disclose the synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution recited in the claim 1. For example, the Examiner has stated that Markussen et al. illustrate a mixture of 1) around 90% monoglyceride of pamitic acid and stearic acid and around 10% of diglyceride of palmitic acid and stearic acid, and that Examples 2 and 3 use PEG 4000. Thus, a synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution is not shown. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the compositions of Markussen to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating. As neither all the elements are shown in Markussen and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Markussen to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating, Markussen is deficient and fails to anticipate or make obvious amended claim 1. Reconsideration is urged.

Claims 1-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Andela et al (WO 96/16151) (hereinafter referred to simply as "Andela").

Andela refers to coated enzyme granule and a method of preparing coated enzyme granules. However, Andela does not disclose the synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution. For example, the Examiner has stated that Andela et al. includes the use of PEG and PEG blends, glycerol monotearate and paraffin waxes and beeswax. A synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution is not shown. Applicants note that waxes are typically purchased having a narrow molecular weight distribution, unlike the claimed invention which utilizes a wide molecular weight distribution. One of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the compositions of Andela to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating. As neither all the elements are shown in Andela and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Andela to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating, Andela is deficient and fails to anticipate or make obvious amended claim 1. Reconsideration is urged.

Claims 1-13, 17, 19, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Nicholson et al (US 5,480,577) (hereinafter simply referred to as "Nicholson").

Nicholson refers to wax-encapsulated particles having a core particle or an aggregate of core particles including organic peroxy acid, a diacyl peroxide, an inorganic peroxygen compound, a bleach catalyst, a peroxygen bleach precursor and mixtures thereof together with 0.01% to about 5% by weight of a surfactant. Applicants understand the surfactants of Nicholson are in the core and not the coating. Further the thickener is not present in the coating, but rather in the liquid detergent. Moreover, the paraffin waxes are not polymers. Accordingly, Nicholson is deficient and fails to describe the claimed composition having a synthetic polymer wax composition having the claimed molecular weight distribution. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the compositions of Nicholson to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating. As neither all the elements are shown in Nicholson and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify Nicholson to include a synthetic polymer wax composition coating, Nicholson is deficient and fails to make claim 1 as amended herein obvious. Reconsideration is urged.

**III. Conclusion**

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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